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MINUTES

OF THE

ORGANIZATION

AND

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

CURRENT RIVER MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

ANTIOCH CHURCH, RANDOLPH COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

October 7th, 8th, and 10th, A. D., 1881.

OFFICERS:

MODERATOR,.....ARTHUR CONNER.
CLERK,.....JULIUS A. LEROUX.

DONIPHAN, MISSOURI.

CURRENT RIVER NEWS BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
1881.

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From a series of experience, we, the churches of Jesus Christ, being legally baptised upon a profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion amongst us, and to maintain and preserve a correspondence with each other. We therefore propose to maintain and keep the order and rules of our Association according to the following form and plan of government.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, who, on producing their letters, shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from different churches are to express their number in fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, dismissed, restored, excluded and dead since the last Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be denominated Current River Association of United Missionary Baptist, being composed of sundry churches lying and being in the states of Missouri and Arkansas, who are to have no power to Lord it over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.

4. The Association, when convened, is to be governed by regular and proper rules of decorum which they are hereby authorized to form for themselves.

5. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who, shall be elected annually by the members present.

6. New churches may be admitted into this Association, who are to be admitted by letter, and delegates, and if upon an examination they are found

orthodox and orderly may be received by the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

7. No query shall be discussed in this Association coming from any church until it has first been thoroughly discussed in their own church.

8. Every motion made and seconded is to come under the consideration of the Association except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

9. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the Association in proportion to their contributions from each church, and to be distributed amongst the churches.

10. The Clerk shall keep a regular file of the minutes of our Association.

11. The minutes of the Association are to be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

12. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time by the majority of the members present, when they deem it necessary.

13. Sec. 1. The Association in case of any church failing to attend may inquire the cause. Sec. 2. May appoint any member or members with their consent to transact any business of the Association. Sec. 3. May admit visiting brethren. Sec. 4. The Association shall have power to adjourn to such time and place as it may think proper.

Presbytery organized the Current River Association.

ELDER A. CONNER,

ELDER J. J. MCGUIRE,

ELDER F. C. TRICE.

FRIDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Minutes of the Organization and first Annual Meeting of the Current River Missionary Baptist Association held with Antioch Church Arkansas, October 7th, 8th, and 10th A. D. 1881. Ministers and delegates met at Antioch Church, Ark., on Friday October 7, for the purpose of organizing an Association. Services were opened by singing a hymn entitled "I Love thy Kingdom Lord," and prayer by Elder A. Conner. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Anthony Foster from the 19th chapter and 6th verse of Revelations. On motion Elder A. Conner was nominated Moderator pro tem. and J. A. Leroux, Clerk pro tem. until organized.

1. Motion to adopt the constitution of Cane Creek Association.

2. Motioned to select a presbytry to organize the Association consisting of Elders F. C. Trice, J. J. McGuire and A. Conner.

3. Motioned to adopt the rules of decorum and the articles of faith of the Cane Creek Association.

4. Motioned to receive the covenant of Cane Creek Association and sealed with prayer by Elder J. J. McGuire and delegates extending the right hand of fellowship to each other.

RECESS UNTIL 4 P. M.

1. Called for letters to organize.

2. Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk by private ballot, resulted in electing A. Conner Moderator and J. A. Leroux. Clerk.

3. Called for correspondence from sister Associations. Received from Cane Creek, W. C. Jarrett, Elder W. Powers, Joel Cochran as messenger. Invited to seats by Moderator and extended the right hand.

4. Motion to hold election by private ballot to name this Association. Carried to name it Current River Association.

5. Motion for Moderator to nominate certain committees.

1. *Committee on Preaching*.—Delegates from Antioch Church, Brothers T. Cherry, D. Blackburn and J. H. Luttrell.

2. *Committee on Arrangements*.—Brothers T. J. Watson, L. W. Patrick, J. J. McGuire with Moderator and Clerk.

3. *Committee on Resolutions*.—B. Wright, H. McCrary and B. R. Black.

4. *Committee on Itinerancy*.—J. J. McGuire, J. A. Leroux and A. Foster.

5. *Committee on Publication*.—W. S. Boyd, G. Tonzand and T. J. Watson.

6. *Committee on Sunday Schools*.—F. C. Trice, W. S. Boyd and Geo. Gibson.

7. *Committee on Obituary*.—B. R. Black, H. M. McCrary and D. Blackburn.

8. *Committee on Correspondence*.—Berry Wright, F. C. Trice and J. Mulhollen.

9. *Committee on Destitution*.—Berry Wright, J. A. Leroux and Anthony Foster.

Motioned to adjourn until Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. Closed with prayer by Elder L. W. Patrick.

Preaching at night, by Elders F. C. Trice and A. Foster, from the 10th chapter and 34th and 35th verses of Acts of Apostle.

SATURDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Opened by Elder A. Foster, by reading the first Psalm, and singing and prayer and the Moderator called the Association to order and proceeded to business by calling for report of the bill of arrangements. Motion to receive the bill and committee discharged.

1. Called the role of delegates.

2. Read the Rules of Decorum.

3. Motion to call reports read; received, and committee discharged.

COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

We your committee on itinerancy beg leave to make the following report: That we as an Association, though young, have a great work to perform and we are surrounded by territory destitute of preaching and especially Baptist preaching. Therefore, we would recommend to this body the importance of having an itinerant or Missionary preacher in the field to preach to the destitution and to churches when not in the destitutions.

A. FOSTER,

J. J. MCGUIRE,

J. A. LEROUX.

} Committee.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

4. Report of committee on Resolutions. Bill read and motion to receive the same and committee discharged. 1st. Resolved that the churches when they call their pastor they make ample provision for their support. 2d. We recommend that the sister churches pay special attention to their poor and needy, that our brother deacons be more diligent in doing their duties towards our ministers, also the poor and needy. 3d. We commend that our ministerial brethren preach one Missionary sermon of more each year to their churches that they may have the care of and cultivate missionary principles where they

go. 4th. We recommend that each church hold two communion meetings each year. 5th. Recommend that this Association report in their minutes the names of all the ministers in their bounds, both ordained and licentiate. 6th. Resolved, That whereas, we feel the necessity of the teachings of the whole duties of the churches and members with the pure Gospel. 7th. Resolved, That our ministers be urged to make a full report of their sermons, exhortations, public prayers, miles traveled, etc., and their pay for the same. 8th. Resolved, That the clerk furnish the publisher of the papers that this Association has adopted, with two copies each of our minutes. 9th. We recommend to this body that they use their influence against the use of ardent spirits as a beverage.

BERRY WRIGHT,
ROBERT R. BLACK, } Committee.
HUGH McCRARY, }

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

5. Committee on publication; motion to receive the same and committee discharged. We your committee on publication beg leave to make the following report: Resolved, That we recommend to this body the following described literature namely: the Baptist Flag, published by D. B. Ray, of St. Louis, Mo., also his text book on Campbellism and the Baptist Succession also the Baptist, published by J. R. Graves, Memphis, Tenn. We further recommend that the Bible be more thoroughly read and studied than heretofore, it being the book of all books. Resolved, That we offer the following resolution: that the churches hold a regular prayer meeting.

W. S. BOYD,
T. J. WATSON, } Committee.
G. TOUNZAND, }

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

6. Report of committee on Sunday schools; motion to receive report, committee discharged. We your committee on Sabbath school beg leave to make the following report: That we would recommend to the churches the importance of keeping up a Baptist Sabbath school in each church for the purpose of instructing the young and rising generation, that we buy our books from the Baptist Publishing Co.

F. C. TRICE,
W. S. BOYD, } Committee.
G. W. GIBSON, }

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARY.

7. Report of committee on obituary read; motion to receive report and committee discharged. We your committee on obituary beg leave to make the following report: That there has died in our bounds during the last year, sister Gambill, of Mt. Pleasant, West Ark., sisters Marshall and Balamy, of Antioch, sisters McCan, Magee and Cole, of Shiloh church, Ark. 1st. Resolved, Whereas the good Lord has seen fit to remove from our midst those dear sisters, we would bow in submission to his will. 2d. Resolved, That we sympathise with the bereaved families and friends of the deceased in their afflictions, believing that our loss is their gain. 3d. Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon our minutes and a minute be given to the families of the deceased.

HUGH McCRARY,
D. BLACKBURN, } Committee.
R. R. BLACK, }

COMMITTEE ON DESTITUTION.

8. Report on destitutions; report read; motion to give committee longer time to fill out report.

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

9. Motion to receive the report and committee discharged. We, your committee on correspondence, beg leave to make the following report: We would recommend that we open correspondence with Cane Creek, State Line, Spring River, and Bethlehem Associations and that we correspond by minutes.

F. C. TRICE,
JAMES MULHOLLEN, } Committee.
BERRY WRIGHT, }

10. Moderator appointed brothers W. S. Boyd and R. R. Black committee on finance.

11. Motion to have recess until after preaching. Preaching by Elder L. W. Patrick and W. Powers; alternate text, the Lords Prayer "Our Father who art in Heaven."

AFTER RECESS.

12. Motioned for Brother Dennis Reynolds to act as delegate in place of Brother D. Blackburn, for the time being.

COMMITTEE ON DESTITUTION.

13. Motion to receive the report, and committee discharged. We your committee on destitution beg leave to make the following report: Our destitution is extremely great, there being a large scope of country west of Current river and east of Black river, from Walnut Ridge to the ridge east of Corning, also at Corning, and extending on the west of Black river as far as Neelyville, Mo.

J. A. LEROUX,

BERRY WRIGHT,

ANTHONY FOSTER,

} Committee.

14. Motion to hold election by private ballot to fill the stand on the Sabbath. Resulted in the election of Elder L. W. Patrick, and Arthur Conner alternate.

15. Election by private ballot, where to hold the next Association. Carried to hold it with Mt. Pleasant, east Ark.

16. Election by private ballot, who shall preach the next introductory sermon at next Association; Elected J. J. McGuire and A. Conner Alternate.

17. Motion to have 500 minutes printed and brother Clerk superintend the printing and distributing of the same.

18. Motioned and carried, to call this Association the Current River Missionary Baptist Association.

19. Motion, to go into an examination of brother W. S. Boyd, as requested by his church for ordination.

20. Motion for delegates of Liberty church to choose 3 ordained ministers out of this body and set the time for the ordination: chosen, A. Conner, J. J. McGuire and A. Foster.

21. Motion for this Association to recommend to Mt. Pleasant, west Ark., the prosperity of the ordination of brother F. C. Trice.

22. Motion that we have a travelling missionary the ensuing year and to choose him by private ballot. Resulted in the election of Elder J. J. McGuire.

23. Motion to make a public collection on the Sabbath, for the benefit of brother F. C. Trice. Collected \$6.25.

24. Motion to take a subscription individually for the traveling missionary. Amount, \$44.50.

25. Motion to adjourn until Monday morning at 9 o'clock, and closed with prayer by Elder W. Powers.

Preaching Saturday night by Elders J. J. McGuire, and G. Tounzan from the 4th chapter and 34th and 35th verses of St. John.

Preaching on the Sabbath at 11 o'clock by Elders L. W. Patrick and A. Conner, Alternate, from the 11th chapter and 17th verse of Revelations.

Met for the ordination of Brother W. S. Boyd at 4 p.m. Opened by singing "Go Preach My Gospel Saith the Lord," and prayer by J. J. McGuire, and sermon from the 24th chapter and 14th verse of St. Matthews and proceeded to question and give charges by Elder J. J. McGuire, ordination prayer by Elder A. Foster, preaching Sunday night by J. J. McGuire and W. S. Boyd from the 13th chapter and 30th verse of St. Matthew.

MONDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Association met pursuant to adjournment by reading the 43d Psalm and singing "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound," and prayer by A. Foster.

L. Motion that we call for volunteer messenger to different Associations as correspondents.

1st. To Cane Creek, J. A. Leroux, A. Conner, T. J. Watson, G. Tounzan and W. S. Boyd. 2d. To Spring River, J. J. McGuire, A. Foster and Berry Wright. 3d. To State Line, A. Foster, W. S. Boyd, D. Blackburn and J. J. McGuire. 4th. To Bethlehem, A. Conner, James Mulhollen, F. C. Trice and T. J. Watson.

2. Motion that this body recommend to the several churches that their

clerks keep their books in good order and a form written by Elder J. J. McGuire for clerks to work by.

1st. Resolved, That we recommend to the churches the necessity of keeping a strict record of all the proceedings. 2d. The names of the preachers. 3d. His text. 4th. The members present. 5th. Those received or dismissed and how. 6th. Contributions received and for what purpose and who by. 7th. All other business transacted. J. J. McGUIRE.

3. Resolved, That we as a body recommend that the churches composing this Association instruct their messengers to continue with the Association until the business of the body is completed. W. S. BOYD.

4. Motion that brother Dennis Reynolds act as Associational treasurer.

5. Motion that Moderator appoint seven members to constitute a missionary board two from Antioch church and one from the rest of the churches. Antioch, brothers Dennis Reynolds and Joseph Herrin. Mt. Pleasant, West Ark., A. Foster. Mt. Pleasant East Ark., R. R. Black, Shiloh. W. R. Magee. Liberty, R. F. Riley, Emmons, J. A. Leroux, and them to meet four times a year and report the collections made.

6. Report of finance committee, \$8.30 additional amount \$1.20.

7. Motion the money be put in the hands of the clerk for defraying the expenses of printing of the minutes.

Recess till after 11 o'clock. Preaching by Elder T. J. Watson from the 19th chapter and 25th verse and G. Toupzan 19th chapter and 26th verse of St. Matthew.

AFTER RECESS.

8. Motion to turn over subscription lists to the missionary board.

9. Motioned and by ballot that this Association be held with Mt. Pleasant, East Ark., commencing on Friday before the 2d Lord's day in October A. D. 1882.

10. Motioned to hold a Ministers and Deacons meetings to be held with Liberty church, Cherokee Bay, Randolph county, Ark., on the 1st 5th Sunday after October (or the first month that has five Sundays in after October.)

11. Motion that Moderator appoint a committee of three to write subjects for essays; appointed brothers Berry Wright, Hugh McCrary and Robert Black.

12. Motion to return the thanks of this Association to the brethren and friends of Antioch church and surrounding country in general for their kind hospitality while our stay among them.

13. Motion to adjourn to meet with Mt. Pleasant church, East Ark., commencing on Friday before the 2d Lord's day in October A. D. 1882.

Closed with prayer by Elder A. Conner and singing "I'm going Home" and extending the parting hand to each other.

J. A. LEROUX.

Clerk.

A. CONNER.

Moderator.

ASSOCIATIONAL COVENANT.

Having been led, as we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, and on profession of our faith, have been baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, we do now solemnly and joyfully enter into a covenant with one another as one body in Christ, to engage therefore by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Association in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity; to sustain its worship ordinances, discipline doctrines, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry and poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations; we also engage to endeavor to maintain secret devotion, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all talking, back-biting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors as beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior; we further agree to watch over each other in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offence

but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Savior

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one true and Living God the Father Word and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.
2. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God and the only true rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe by the voluntary transgression of a man sin entered into the world and death by sin; so death has passed upon all men for all have sinned and are by nature the children of wrath.
4. We believe that Jesus Christ by the grace of God tasted death for every man and through his meritorious death the way of salvation is made possible for God to have mercy upon all who come unto Him upon the gospel terms.
5. We believe that believers are justified in the sight of God only by righteousness of Christ imparted into them through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. We believe that the saints will persevere in grace and not one of them will be finally lost.
7. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead both of the just and the unjust and a general judgment and that the happiness of the righteousness and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.
8. We believe the visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers composed of men and women who have given themselves to the Lord and attained fellowship with each other having agreed to keep up a Godly discipline according to the rules of the gospel.
9. We believe in revealed religion by the operation of the spirit agreeable to the word of God, and that Jesus Christ is the general head of the church and the government thereof is with the body.
10. We believe that none but legally baptised believers have a right to commune at the Lords' table and that no person has a right to administer the ordinances of the gospel except he be legally called and qualified.
11. We believe that water baptism and the Lords Supper are ordinances of the gospel to be continued until his second coming, and that true believers are the only fit subjects of baptism, and immersion the only gospel mode.
12. We believe that the Lords' Day should be observed and set apart for the worship of God and that no work of a worldly nature be transacted thereon, work of pity, mercy and necessity excepted.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Moderator shall take the chair at the hour to which the Association shall be adjourned and after prayer shall proceed to business. It shall be his duty to keep order and he shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but in no case shall be given a vote unless the Association be equally divided.
2. Only one member shall be allowed to speak at the same time and he shall rise and address the Moderator, and in no wise shall he be interrupted unless he digress from the subject in question and shall in no wise cast any reflections on those who have spoken before him but shall fairly give his own views without sophistry or criticism.
3. No member shall speak more than three times on any one subject without leave of the Association.
4. No member shall address another by any other appellation save that of brother when sitting in council.
5. The Moderator shall not interrupt nor prohibit a member from speaking until his speech is finished unless he violates the rules of Decorum.
6. The names of all the members shall be enrolled by the clerk and called as often as the Association may desire.
7. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.
8. Every case taken up and decided shall be announced by the Moderator.
9. Any member who shall knowingly violate any of the foregoing rules shall be reprov'd as the Association may think proper.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Rec'd by Baptism	Received by Letter	By recommendation	Restored	Dismissed by letter	Excluded	Dead	Total
Antioch.....	T. Cherry, D. Blackburn, J. H. Luttrell.....		2			2	10	2	57
Mt. Pleasant West Ark.	F. C. Trice Anthony Foster.....	1		3		1	1	1	37
Shiloh	Geo. Gibson, Wm. Magee, H. D. Sheppard.....	2	1	1		2	1	3	36
Mt. Pleasant East Ark.	R. R. Black, Eli Miller, James Mulhollen.....	2	2			3			34
Emmons, Mo.....	J. A. Leroux, W. H. Jackson, organized.....		5		16				21
Liberty, Ark.....	Berry Wright, W. S. Boyd, Hugh McCary.....								27

CHURCHES.	NAME OF CLERKS.	TIME OF MEETING.	P. O. OF CLERKS.	PASTORS.
Antioch, Ark.	T. H. Reynolds.	Saturday before 4th Sunday.	Cherokee Bay, Ark.	A. Conner,
Mt. Pleasant W., Ark.	D. H. Sharp.	Saturday before 3d Sunday.	Pitman Ark.	J. W. Witt.
Shiloh, Mo.	Geo. Gibson.	Saturday before 2d Sunday.	Corning, Ark.	T. J. Watson.
Mt. Pleasant E., Ark.	R. R. Black.	Saturday before 3d Sunday.	Corning, Ark.	A. Conner.
Emmons, Mo.	J. A. Leroux.	Saturday before 1st Sunday.	Doniphan, Mo.	A. Conner.
Liberty, Ark.	R. F. Riley.	Saturday before 3d Sunday.	Cherokee Bay, Ark.	L. W. Patrick.